

BJU WHITHER BOUND?

The following is excerpted from an article by ----- in the *Fundamentalist Digest*, Jan.-Feb. 2002:

The writer is a Fundamental Baptist by conviction, who is not ashamed of his Baptist beliefs. He intensely believes in the centrality of the local church. 50% of his ministry time investment has been involved in pastoring local churches and the other 50% in itinerant ministry encouraging the strengthening local churches.

A STATEMENT OF APPRECIATION

He is also a Bob Jones University [BJU] alumnus. He is grateful for the excellent training he received there both as an undergraduate and graduate student, where he received the B.A. and B.D. [M.D. equivalent] degrees. He remains unapologetic for the superb manner in which this institution added to his earlier foundational instruction. Dr. Bob Jones Sr. was one of his foremost spiritual mentors. In her last full decade of life, [age 90-100], Mrs. Bob Jones Sr. sent ours truly encouraging gifts and notes on numerous occasions.

The writer also greatly respected and appreciated Dr. Bob Jones Jr., who was a kind friend, graciously encouraging and financially contributing to his ministry. BJU honored this writer in by giving him the "Founders Award for the defense of the Scripture", and later honored him with an honorary LLD degree (Doctor of Literature). For 30 years, this institution also positively assisted him in many vital ways in his evangelistic and pastoral endeavors.

In recent years, however, it appears that this fundamentalist "Citadel of the faith" is taking dangerous steps in the wrong direction and moving away from its original moorings, following paths that could eventually lead it into the New-evangelical camp. Christian history sadly recounts over and over again the tragic destiny for Christian ministries once foundational anchors are cast aside. As validation, the writer cites the following documented items:

BJU PROFESSOR'S BOOK RESEARCH SUBSIDIZED BY LEADING NEW-EVANGELICAL SOURCES

Douglas Carl Abrams is a professor of history at BJU. He recently authored a book entitled , *Selling the Old Time Religion*. Subtitled "American fundamentalists and Mass Culture 1920- 1940", this treatise was published in 2001 by the University of Georgia Press.

In the promotional jacket cover, the publishers summarize the crux of the book declaring the book examines "the relationship between Protestant fundamentalism and mass culture" revealing, "how the first generation of fundamentalists embraced the modern business and entertainment techniques" and "adapted to the consumer society and popular culture with the accompanying values of materialism and immediate gratification despite the seeming conflict between these values and certain tenets of their religious beliefs,"

On the jacket, Abrams states "fundamentalists in the 1920's and 1930's were willing to compromise certain traditions that defined the movement, such as pre-millennialism, holiness, and defense of the faith" by a flexibility with forms of consumption and pleasure that strengthened their evangelistic emphasis and perhaps the movement's core...in the end fundamentalists imitated mass culture not to be like the world, but to evangelize it."

Without question, the author has thoroughly researched his subject, using hundreds of documented citations to validate his claims. The author's extensive quotations greatly intrigued this writer as he eagerly scanned its pages. After carefully perusing the book's contents, the FD editor has arrived at some conclusions not all of which concur with the author's theses. Serious readers can also make their own conclusions after they examine the book's contents.

Why does this book so greatly disturb him? Because in the preface, p. xiii, the author states that two leading New-Evangelical entities provided financial subsidies for this written project! The author states' "The project began with a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar [NEHS] with William R. Hutchinson at Harvard Divinity School [HDS]." [Did NEHS and/or the apostate HDS initiate the subsidies? The author does not clearly indicate]. Subsequent grants from the American Council of Learned Societies, The Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, and the Institute for the Study of American Evangelicals at Wheaton College made the research possible."

The facts are undeniable: The research conducted by this BJU professor, which made this book possible, was partially financed by leading New-Evangelical sources that the noted "Citadel of Faith" supposedly decries: No argument that could/will be cited can justify this unwarranted action BJU's approving endorsement on this book can be certified by the following fact: In Oct. 2001 and Dec. 2001 visits the writer made to the BJU Campus Bookstore, this book was prominently displayed at the main sales desk as well as in the regular racks.

BJU SPONSORED SEMINAR FEATURES NEW-EVANGELICAL SPEAKERS

From June 4-7, 2001 BJU sponsored a "Home Educational Leadership Seminar" entitled "HELP 2002" a valuable source of interaction and assistance for home educators."

According to the official brochure, the seminar featured four "keynote" speakers: Congressman Lindsey Graham, Rev. Louis Sheldon, Janet Parshall and Bob Jones IV. The three religiously affiliated speakers all have strong New-Evangelical ties. The following documented facts plainly substantiate the writer's assertion.

Sheldon heads the Traditional Values Coalition [TVC], an ecumenically oriented religious organization that is nothing less an equivalent of the former Moral Majority, a movement that BJU resoundingly condemned. When the Moral majority [MM] rose in the late 1970's and early 1980's, BJU's leadership staunchly condemned that group because of its ecumenical composition in preaching and print around the country. [Sheldon attends an Assemblies of God church in California, and he is a co-founder of the charismatic-ecumenical CBN University.]

Dr. Frank Bumpus [now deceased] penned an incisive article entitled "Ecumenical Politics" in BJU's Faith for the Family magazine [now defunct]. Bumpus discerningly wrote: "Is it right for Christians to yoke with unbelievers in spiritual endeavors? God's answer is simple: 'Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers.' Every time someone reasons around this plain command, erosion follows - the erosion of truth, character and reason. Years ago, Billy Graham reasoned that we could ignore this command for the sake of saving souls. 'Ecumenical evangelism' was born, and scores of good men flocked to that banner.

Later, Jerry Falwell and others reasoned that we could ignore this command for the sake of saving America and 'ecumenical politics' emerged. Now we see good men marching in militant fashion after this new standard. We are beginning to see the fruit of ecumenical politics. Who would have ever thought men who have stood for the gospel would refer to the enemies of God as 'good religious people' and 'preachers of God'.... We should contend for religious liberty, but not at the expense of disregarding truth and scriptural injunction."

Sheldon's Traditional Values Coalition [TVC] differs little, if any, from the basic essence of the old Moral Majority [MM]. Sheldon himself confirms this fact: In a Human Events article dated Jan. 11, 1994 entitled "Conservative Spotlight", Sheldon stated, "We have been able to attract Catholics, Jews, Mormons and all sorts of Protestants to unite on behalf of the preservation of their deeply held sense..... This broad coalition of Americans has united around religion and this is a very good thing for our country."

Around what sort of "religion[s]" is the TVC based? Certainly not the historic Biblical Fundamentalist kind delineated in the verbally inspired Word of God. TVC's uniting "religion" is the ecumenical brand strongly condemned in the preserved Scriptures. In the Revivalist, May 1989, p. 4, Frank McClellan discerningly observed: "It is a solemn fact that some of those with whom many Bible-believing Christians have cooperated in a

united Christian witness against abortion are just as truly enemies of the gospel and of the souls of men as abortionists."

McClellan may not have actually been referring to TVC, but his statement can be correctly applied to that movement. The TVC takes some stands that are morally commendable, but such stands do not justify an unscriptural co-operation by Fundamentalists.

In the Skopeo, Spring 1994, Randy Amos correctly stated, "We should not be deceived by a false gospel even though it stands for moral righteousness... for this is nothing but Satan's smokescreen.....by putting the spotlight on the wrong thing, the truth is kept in darkness." Wes Auger alertly declared in a Jan. 1982 News Letter: 'The right to life' battle has weakened some former separatists into a compromise position with Catholicism." Amos and Auger could have rightly included the homosexual problem as well as the abortion issue, since TVC's main thrust seems to be the sexual perversion issue.

More than three quarters of a century ago, Dr. I. M. Haldeman, longtime pastor of the First Baptist Church, NYC, perceptively stated in his book *The mission of the Church* "He [the Fundamentalist preacher] cannot.....take part in a purely temperance movement. He cannot do so primarily because of its constitution, composed as such movements are of those who are unregenerate and Bible-rejecting as well as those who profess to be Christians. When you put the movement up to its best, it is a combination of flesh and spirit." (p. 30) (Fundamentalist Digest, Jan.-Feb. 2002)

JANET PARSHALL, FOCUS ON FAMILY [FOF] STAFF

Janet Parshall, a conservative talk show personality, hosts a nationally syndicated program. According to the BJU brochure, Parshall also "hosts *Renewing the Heart*, a one-hour radio program dedicated to women's issues Produced by Focus of the Family. [FOF]." As readers will note, the above quotation is not a misprint. It is taken from the official BJU seminar brochure!

While FOF takes some commendable conservative moral and political positions, the FOF organization with which Parshall identifies herself is saturated with ecumenical connections and linked with numerous Scripturally unreliable stances. Consider the following items:

1. In Nov. 2000, FOF founder and leader, Dr. James Dobson joined with Chas. Colson, in a conference in Rome at the Vatican conference hosted by the [Vatican] "Pontifical Council for the Family" and "Action Institute, an academic RC think tank based in Grand Rapids, MI. After the sessions, both Colson and Dobson made statements that were used by Roman Catholic publicists to promote the harlot ecumenical cause. Sources: National Catholic Register, Dec. 17-23, 2000. p. 4 *Calvary Contender*, 1-1-2001. p. 2.

2. The Family Research Council [FRC] based in Washington, D.C. is an FOF related ministry. The New American (7-17-2001, p. 52) reported that according to the FRC's Washington Watch newsletter, the FRC regards "continued U.S. entanglement in the UN as an evangelical imperative" and via such participation, evangelicals can help transform the UN's nature. The New American quotes the FRC's stance as follows:

"The UN desperately needs a Christ-like witness. If we, as followers of Christ, withdraw, then who would provide that witness? If, by our participation, the Truth is spread, is it not possible that the policies of the United Nations...may be transformed." In response, the New American [NA] reporter observantly states, "While Christians have a calling to witness to all people, this mandate does not dictate a duty to unite with institutions that are intrinsically evil." Accord to the NA journalist, "the [FRC] essay demands that Christians and other patriots remain wedded to the UN, insisting that U. S. withdrawal from the United Nations would be unwise."

3. The Christian News, (9-18-2000), quoted Ken Ham, the noted creationist speaker, as stating that the announcer for Dobson's program highly recommended a book for teenagers on the creation/evolution issue entitle It Couldn't Just Happen. Ham states that the book says that (a) Noah's flood could have been local or worldwide; (b) The days of creation could be ordinary days or millions of years and (c) The earth could be thousands or billions of years old.

4. Religious apostate Robert Schuller's "Institute for Christian Leadership" speakers for both his 2000 and 2002 sessions included Focus on the Family representative, Dr. H. B. London Jr.

5. In 1998 Martin and Deidre Bobgan, revised their critique of Dr. James Dobson's ministry and titled it James Dobson's Gospel of Self-Esteem & Psychology. With thorough documentation to back their allegations, they charged Dobson with being the major spokesman in psychologizing evangelical Christianity in America, a trend that they coined as "Psychoheresy." In the May-June and Nov.-Dec. 1999 PsychoHeresy Awareness Letter, the Bobgans again citing documented sources, asserted that Dobson was a promoter of Sigmund Freud, considered the "father of the psycho therapy" movement. [Readers are encourage to check the above sources so they can personally validate the Bobgan's claims.]

6. In 1999, Dr. Dobson's wife, Shirley Dobson was the chairman of the "National Day of Prayer." According to the Christian News (12-14-1998. p. 2) "Rabbi Joshua Heberman, Dr. James A. Kennedy and Father Robert A. Sirica" served as "liaisons" for this ecumenical event. A letter writer in The Berean Call (Oct. 1999) states that in Dobson's Apr. 1999 FOF magazine, Mrs. Dobson' suggestions for participation in this event including lighting "a scented candle...to remind you to pray" and to make "a candle

lighting ceremony part" of one's commitment to pray." The Berean Call response was that Mrs. Dobson's proposals perhaps reflected "the growing embrace of Catholicism" within evangelical Christianity.

7. The National Catholic Register (June 7-13, 1988, pp. 1&7) contained a feature article entitled "Massachusetts Catholics Building Ecumenical Bridges" that cited a recent alliance that the Massachusetts Catholic Conference had just made with the Massachusetts Family Institute, a statewide James Dobson FOF related group. As the article title indicated, Roman Catholic propagandists freely used this new coalition for their ecumenical benefit.

8. In the Evangelical Methodist, May 1996, Dr. Cathy Burns indicated that the Nov. 1989 FOF children's clubhouse magazine "had articles" on the noted R. C. nun, "Mother Teresa", where child readers were "given the impression that Mother Teresa is a genuine Christian and that she is doing a great work for God."

Citing the nun's own quotations, Burns charges that the famed Catholic social worker was in reality a pro-new ager who "considered Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam and other religions to be acceptable ways to God." [Space limitations prevent these quotations, but they are valid!]

In the above illustration, the writer has only tapped the surface of Dobson's New-Evangelical and pro-ecumenical associations. A full expose from the FD files would cover several pages.

BOB JONES IV "NATIONAL EDITOR" OF WORLD MAGAZINE

Bob Jones IV was also a featured speaker at this home education conclave. Jones professes to be a historic Fundamentalist, but his case is clearly one where actions speak louder than words. The Fundamentalist avowals of Jones simply do not match his clearly defined New-Evangelical associations and connections. Jones serves as "National [political] Editor" of *World* magazine. While Jones's articles on national politics generally reflect a conservative stance, the religious magazine for whom he writes is totally new-evangelical from cover to cover!

In the Jan-Feb. 1999 (pp. 27-32), the writer penned an extensive critical review of *World* magazine. He is summarizing those charges below, assertions which he thoroughly documented from *World's* own pages, as well as numerous additional sources: (a) *World* magazine's endorsers are New-Evangelical, pro-Catholic and Catholic; (b) *World's* correspondents and contributors include New Evangelicals; (c) *World* magazine has weekly reviews from Hollywood's "Garbage Can" for movie attendees, including positive reviews of morally inappropriate films and theologically unsound movies and (f) *World* magazine promotes and advertises CCM rock music.

The writer re-iterates those same allegations as still valid in Feb. 2002. Some serious additional criticisms that have come to light are as follows: In Oct. 1999, *World* magazine "refused to run an ad that was critical of the R. C. Church" (source: FBIS, 12-6-1999). According to FBIS, the "ad was the 'Reformation Day Statement'" that had been signed by 250 church leaders who attended a conference sponsored by the Trinity Foundation. The statement exposed "the fundamental errors of the Roman Church-State and her superstitious and deceptive doctrines." It also "denounced evangelicals who have compromised the faith by producing such documents such as 'Evangelicals and Catholics Together.'"

In its July 28, 2001 issue, *World* "expressed high hopes for the [forthcoming] English Standard Version" which it says "springs from the RSV of the 1950's -- a translation that for the most part [it claims] was faithfully accurate." The Aug. 28, 2001 *World* issue featured a special issue on Martin Luther King's "I have a Dream" speech, which it termed "the finest American Speech of the 20th Century." King's picture covered *World*'s entire front page in that issue. Knowledgeable sources know that King was a pro-Marxist left-wing apostate, a womanizing adulterer and a printed plagiarizer.

The writer repeats the assertions he made in the Jan.-Feb. 1999 *Fundamentalist Digest* (p. 32): "The involvement of Bob Jones IV with this New-Evangelical magazine is dangerous and...inconsistent with his Fundamentalist claims. A professing Fundamentalist cannot retain his Fundamentalist claims, if he constantly identifies with and cooperates with the New-Evangelical camp."

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In which direction is BJU heading? Based on the actions cited above, it does not appear to be the direction of the militant Fundamentalist stance of its founder. Directional reversal would require radical surgery. The perspective of Christian history does not offer great hope. The writer recognizes that this article will not be favorably received by all who read its contents and he is aware of repercussions he could confront. He has no axes to grind and possesses no personal animosities towards anyone. Negative reviewers may believe otherwise, but the defense of the faith once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3) has been the writer's sole aim.

CONCLUSION BY BROTHER CLOUD

On April 1, 2003, Dr. Bob Jones III spoke at Furman University's Religion-in-Life Series. Furman is a very liberal school.